Juanita Richardson RDG 675-Summer 2010

Family Literacy Idea Share

Who: Middle school students and their family

What: Newsletter

When: Over a period of time scheduled in by the adults

Where: Anywhere that is conducive for collaborative work

Why: Family bonding, literacy skills, memories, enhanced communication, etc

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Dear Parent,

We have come up with a great way to keep the children and young adults in your family productive while building necessary communication skills. Start a family newsletter! Not only would you be practicing key literacy skills, but you’d be collaborating with the people you love to create vivid memories. These memories will be cherished and added to your family’s legacy.

I’m sure that you are wondering, “When will I find the time?!” We understand that time will always be an issue, especially when you are starting something new and challenging. Our remedy is to break it down into small, manageable segments and take your time in the development of your very first newsletter. There’s no rush and here’s an even better idea: Delegate! Yes. Get all of those technologically inclined kids and young adults on board. You may be surprised with how much creativity will begin to ooze out.

As much as we would love to see all of our families make a plan to create family newsletters, we would completely understand if you just aren’t willing or able to see the project through to the end. However, you will see a lot of ideas below that are great components for a newsletter, but they are also great standalone tasks. So, we would like for each family to pick at least one of the suggestions to work on with their child.

If you are going to give the newsletter a chance, we would love to assist you! Bring in your ideas, schedule, delegations, etc for us to review and give you pointers.

As you can see, whichever route you go, you will inevitably create another opportunity to bond with your child and family. We look forward to hearing your success stories!

Sincerely,

CAMS

Suggested Newsletter Info:

* Individual and Family Events/Gathering (recorded on a master calendar)
* Birthdays & Anniversaries
* Contact list (name, numbers, email)
* Biographies of family members
* Star of the month (Interviewed by child….Start with the eldest person)
* Writing assignments (publish your school/personal writing pieces)
* Topic list for academic & personal writing
* Recipes
* News reports of school games and any noteworthy event
* How-to section for anything (technology & academic support would be great starters)
* Book recommendations
* Text-Talk (Share what you read in a review, start book clubs and record responses)
* Media Mayhem (Discuss current issues)
* Ask the editor
* Lots and lots of pictures!!! (Create collages)